

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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R 301001Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2724

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC HONOLULU

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CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH

SUBJ: THANOM'S REQUEST TO RETURN TO THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 24123

SUMMARY. PRIME MINISTER TELLS PRESS CABINET WILL DISCUSS
FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKHACHON'S REQUEST TO RETURN TO
THAILAND DURING REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING ON AUGUST 31. REQUEST
MADE BY THREE OF THANOM'S DAUGHTERS WHO MET WITH THE PRIME
MINISTER ON AUGUST 29. NSCT REITERATES ITS OPPOSITION TO THANOM'S
RETURN AND HINTS AT MASSIVE PROTEST.
END OF SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER M.R. SENI PRAMOT TOLD THE PRESS ON AUGUST
29 THAT HE WOULD CONSULT WITH THE CABINET AT ITS REGULAR
WEEKLY MEETING ON AUGUST 31 ON FIELD MARSHAL THANOM KITTIKHACHON'S
REQUEST TO RETURN TO THAILAND. THIS STATEMENT FOLLOWED A MEETING
THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HELD THE SAME DAY WITH THREE OF THANOM'S
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DAUGHTERS DURING WHICH THEY FORMALLY REQUESTED THAT THANOM BE

ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THAILAND SOON. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO NOTED THAT THE DAUGHTERS ASSURED HIM THAT THANOM WOULD ENTER THE COUNTRY OPENLY BUT DID NOT SPECIFY WHEN HE WOULD COME TO BANGKOK OR WHETHER THANOM WANTED TO REMAIN TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY.

2. ACCORDING TO THE AUGUST 30 BANGKOK POST, SUTHAM SAENGPRATHUM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL STUDENT CENTER OF THAILAND (NSCT), REITERATED STRONG NSCT OPPOSITION TO THAMON'S RETURN AND HINTED THAT HIS RETURN WOULD TRIGGER ANOTHER MASSIVE PROTEST AMONG THE STUDENTS AND PEOPLE.

3. COMMENT: AS VARIOUS OF THANOM'S SONS AND DAUGHTERS MAY BE INVOLVED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WITH NEGOTIATIONS ON HIS POSSIBLE RETURN, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO RECALL WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY ARE NORMALLY LOCATED. THANOM HAS SIX CHILDREN, OF WHOM FOUR ARE CURRENTLY RESIDENT IN THAILAND. THE SIX, IN ORDER OF AGE, ARE AS FOLLOWS:
NONGNAT PENCHAT (DAUGHTER, MARRIED TO CHAMNAN PHENCHAT OF UNION BANK); NARONG KITTIKHACHON (SON, IN EXILE IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY); NONGNUT CHIRAPHONG (DAUGHTER, MARRIED TO LTG UAM CHIRAPHONG, DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL DEFENSE, ROYAL THAI ARMY; NONGNUT WENT TO SINGAPORE TO ACCOMPANY HER MOTHER BACK TO BANGKOK ON AUGUST 28); LTC YUTHAPONG KITTIKHACHON (SON, ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE); SONGSUDA YOTMANI (DAUGHTER, MARRIED TO SUWIT YOTMANI, LIVING IN SINGAPORE WITH HER HUSBAND AND TWO CHILDREN NEAR THANOM'S APARTMENT); SONGSAMON KHOTCHASE I (DAUGHTER, MARRIED TO VICE ADMIRAL SUPHA KHOTCHASENI, ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE). THANOM'S CHILDREN RESIDENT IN BANGKOK MORE OR LESS REGULARLY TRAVEL TO SINGAPORE TO VISIT THEIR PARENTS.
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